

<u>Abstract</u>

Matching the color axis of the watermark detector to the color direction used by the watermark embedder: A preferred projection axis is determined for each pixel. The preferred projection axis for each pixel is determined by examining the color values of the surrounding pixels in a selected area. Once the preferred projection axis for each pixel is determined the color values of that pixel are projected onto this axis to generate a set of values for each pixel. The watermark grid or data signal can then be detected from these values using known techniques.